

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /017 W
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R 210230Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 795
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0841

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, EFIS, PP
SUBJ: CASTLE AND COOKE PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS IN PNG TUNA
LOINING FACTORY

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 840; B. PORT MORESBY 504

1. NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NIDA) HELD DISCUSSIONS IN JUNE WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HUSSEY FOR CASTLE AND COOKE'S BUMBLE BEE SEAFOODS DIVISION. TALKS FOLLOWED LETTERS SENT TO MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, BRUCE JEPHCOTT, BY WILLIAM P. WOODS, JR., VICE PRESIDENT--PROCUREMENT, SEPT. 30, 1974, AND SECOND LETTER TO THOMAS ALLAN, DIRECTOR OF NIDA BY CHARLES M. WAITE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 8, 1974.

2. THE TALKS WITH HUSSEY HERE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND A LETTER WAS SENT TO ROBERT W. FISHER, VICE PRESIDENT OF CASTLE & COOKE (651 IWILEI ROAD, HONOLULU) ON JUNE 10 INFORMING THE COMPANY OF GPNG INTEREST AND INVITING IT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL ON ESTABLISHING A CANNING/LOINING FACTORY FOR THE PROCESSING OF TUNA AND OTHER FISH CAUGHT IN PNG WATERS.

3. TO DATE CASTLE & COOKE HAVE NOT REPLIED TO THE JUNE 10 OFFER BY NIDA. NIDA HAS, CONSEQUENTLY, ASKED US TO INQUIRE IF FIRM STILL INTERESTED AND WHEN PROPOSAL MAY BE EXPECTED. PLEASE ADVISE.

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4. FYI: NICHOLAS TRUTANIC OF STAR-KIST FOODS HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSING ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMILAR INSTALLATION WITH JEPHCOTT THIS WEEK IN PORT MORESBY. (SEE REFTEL A.) IN ORDER FOR GPNG TO ASSESS FULL IMPLICATIONS OF STAR-KIST PROPOSAL AND THAT OF RIVAL JAPANESE CONSORTIUM, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE ASSESSMENT OF BUMBLE BEE INTEREST.

5. CONGEN FAVORS NEITHER CASTLE & COOKE NOR STAR-KIST ABOVE THE OTHER AND BELIEVES THERE IS ROOM FOR BOTH. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT CASTLE & COOKE AWARE GPNG DECISION MAY BE IMMINENT AND IF THE FIRM IS STILL INTERESTED, IT SHOULD MAKE ITS INTEREST KNOWN TO NIDA OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY. END FYI. OLMSTED

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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